

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/823,641	TAKAHASHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	K. Feggins	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 11/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/16/2005</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
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REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reason for allowance of claims 6-9 is the inclusion of method steps of retransfer printing that includes peeling off the part of the transfer layer adhered to the peel functional layer from the intermediate transfer film by way of adhering the part of the transfer layer corresponding to a peeling area previously designated within an area of the image to the peel functional layer by heating the thermal head corresponding to the peeling area over a predetermined temperature and re-transferring the transfer layer to the printing medium by the thermal transfer method, and resulting in printing the image on the printing medium, wherein the amount of energy, which is supplied to the thermal head so as to heat the thermal head, is controlled in accordance with a location of the thermal head in the peeling area and its neighboring area during the step of peeling; wherein controlling an amount of energy is such that energy having a first value is supplied to the thermal head when the thermal head relatively moves from outside the peeling area to inside the peeling area in order to conduct a temperature of the thermal head to reach to a lower limit temperature at which the peel functional layer enables to exhibit peeling function before the thermal head relatively moves from outside the peeling area to inside the peeling area, and wherein the first value is larger than the second value, and wherein the second value is larger than an energy value that is supplied to the thermal head prior to supplying the energy having the first value. It is these steps found in the claims, as they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or

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suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 10-11 is the inclusion of the limitations of a printing apparatus that includes peeling means for peeling off the part of the transfer layer adhered to the peel functional layer from the intermediate transfer film by way of adhering the part of the transfer layer corresponding to a peeling area previously designated within an area of the image to the peel functional layer by heating the thermal head corresponding to the peeling area over a predetermined temperature; re-transferring means for retransferring the transfer layer to the printing medium by the thermal transfer method, and resulting in printing the image on the printing medium; control means for controlling an amount of energy, which is supplied to the thermal head so as to heat the thermal head in accordance with a location of the thermal head in the peeling area and its neighboring area, wherein energy having a first value is supplied to the thermal head when the thermal head relatively moves from outside the peeling area to inside the peeling area and wherein energy having a second value is supplied to the thermal head while the thermal head is in the peeling area in order to control a temperature of the thermal head not to exceed a temperature at which the peel functional layer fails to exhibit peeling function and not to fall below the lower limit temperature and wherein the first value is larger than the second value, and wherein the second value is larger than an energy value that is supplied to the thermal head prior to supplying the energy having the first value. It is these limitations found in the claims, as

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they are claimed in the combination of that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Odaka et al. (US 6,803,936 B2) disclose an image formation method and a thermal transfer sheet for use in an image formation method utilizing an intermediate transfer recording medium. Araki et al. (US 6,909,446 B2) disclose a printing device having a supply and a take up shaft for conveying an intermediate transfer medium having a transferring layer. Imai et al. (US 5,447,902) disclose a thermal printer that forms an image into a printing layer by heating a color layer and then transferring the printing layer onto an image received sheet by pressure or heat. Suzuki et al. (US 6,894,710 B2) disclose a card recording apparatus that transports a card to an information recording section the transports it to a second heating section and image formed on an intermediate record medium and retransferred to the card.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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Communication With The USPTO

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to K. Feggins whose telephone number is 571-272-2254. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Talbott Dave can be reached on 571-272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 3/8/04
K. FEGGINS
PRIMARY EXAMINER